

KDHE Booth, Great Hunt popular at State Fair

*By Marty Burke, public educator
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As in past years, the KDHE booth and “Great Hunt for your Health and Environment” proved to be favorite stops for Kansas State Fair goers. The Fair, which ran September 5-14, enjoyed substantially increased attendance this year and visits to the KDHE booth followed the trend. The booth featured displays and publications on a range of health and environmental topics. New interactive games were offered this year on the topics of recycling, composting and household hazardous waste management.

Now in it's seventh year, the Great Hunt for Your Health and Environment was organized by the Bureau of Waste Management and featured 10 displays or demonstrations from KDHE bureaus scattered across the fair grounds and buildings. Hunt sites featured information on home composting, West Nile Virus, cancer and lead poisoning prevention, air and water quality, household hazardous waste and child safety.

Fair goers recorded a code from each site on a map, scavenger hunt style, and turned in the completed forms at the KDHE booth for a prize. This year, more than 300 successful great hunt participants received a canvas tote bag featuring information about the Kansas Don't Spoil It! public awareness campaign.

The KDHE booth and the Great Hunt in particular attracted many repeat customers. Several visitors and Hunt participants indicated they visit the KDHE booth and participate in the Great Hunt every year. One class of seventeen students from Hutchinson included the Great Hunt in their class activities. Students and their teacher visited each hunt site and participated in class exercises related to each Hunt display topic.

KDHE staff that assisted with this year's booth were Rodney Ferguson, Jeannie Lovan, Rick Bryant, Laura Heflin, David Behzadpour, Kevin Anderson, TJ Ciaffone, Tibi Marin, Jack Muehlbach, Ken Powell, Lori Strunk, Jami Iott, Theresa Carter, Ginger Taylor and Jim Rudeen.



Ken Powell, Solid Waste Section, explains the importance of recycling to Kansas State Fair patrons during their stop to the KDHE booth during September's annual event.